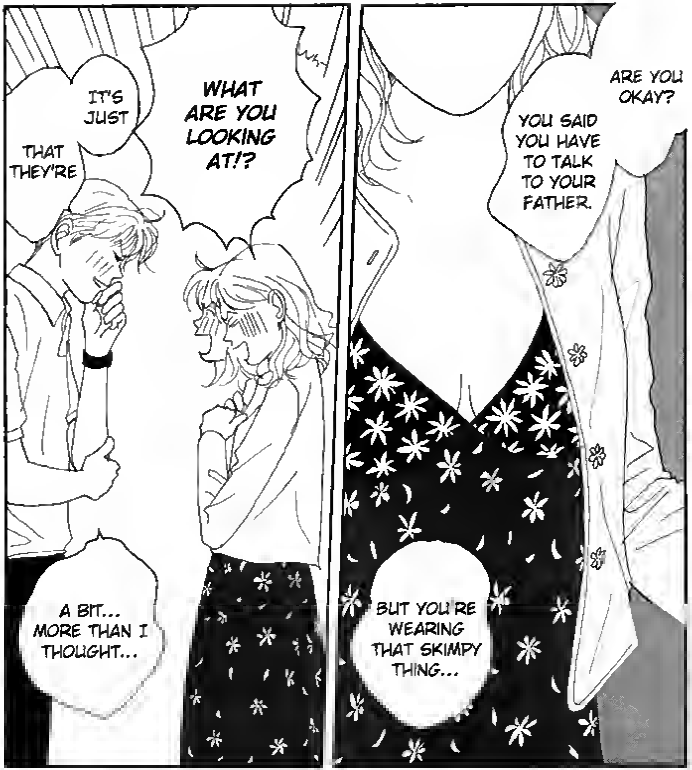
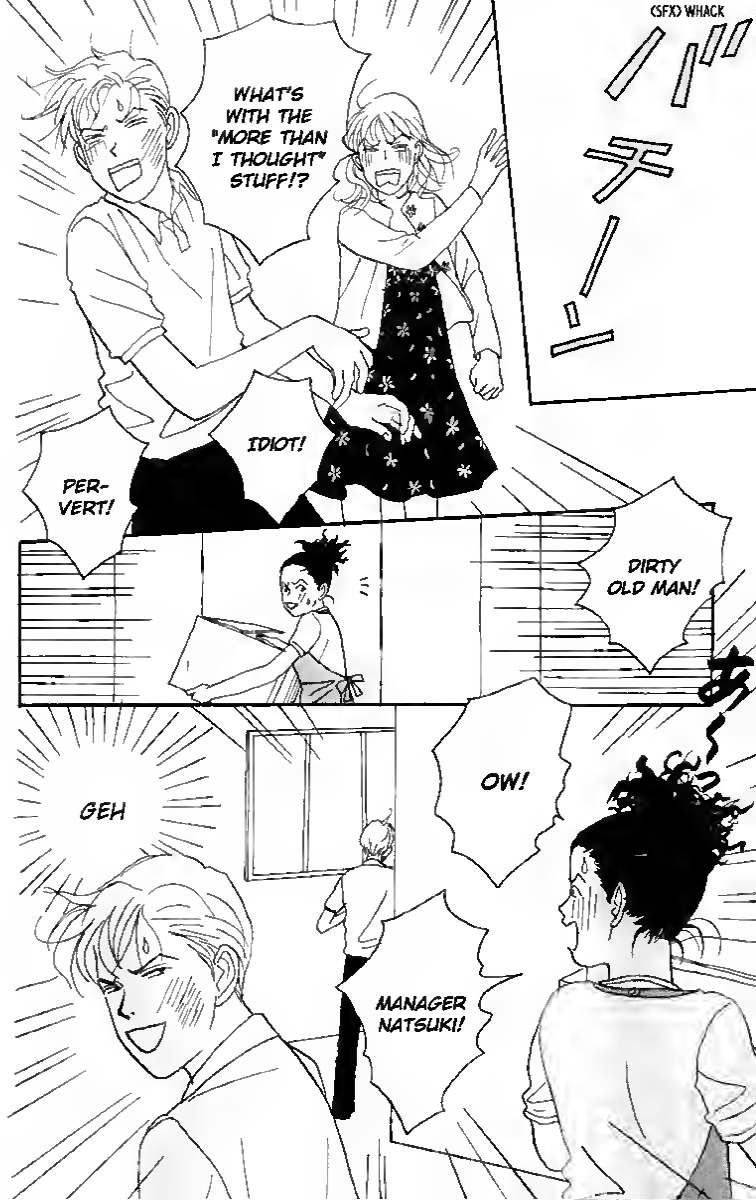
the 34th round

IS IT OKAY?
NATSUKI
DON'T YOU HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK?
Natsuki!!!
Heyyy
WHAT ABOUT YOU?


ARE YOU OKAY?
YOU SAID YOU HAVE TO TALK TO YOUR FATHER.
BUT YOU'RE WEARING THAT SKIMPY THING...
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT!?
IT'S JUST THAT THEY'RE
A BIT... MORE THAN I THOUGHT...

ガバッ


(SFX) WHACK
バーチー
WHAT'S WITH THE "MORE THAN I THOUGHT" STUFF!?
IDIOT!
PER-VERT!
DIRTY OLD MAN!
あっ
OW!
GEH
MANAGER NATSUKI!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MANAGER?
THE BOSS IS CALLING FOR YOU.
MANAGER!?
IT'S A NICKNAME A NICK-NAME!
Don't get all ex cited.
(SFX) HA HA HA
HUH?
There's someone behind you
SOO~
WHAT IS IT!?
THE BOSS IS LOOKING FOR ME!?
LIH-HUH
APPARENTLY HE'S HAVING TROUBLE WITH AN ESTIMATE THAT'S IN ENGLISH...
IT SEEMED LIKE IT MIGHT BE URGENT.

EH...
IF SHE'S GOING TO TALK TO THE PRESIDENT, WE'LL END UP TOGETHER IN HIS OFFICE...
VISI-TOR!?
JUST NOW HE GOT A VISITOR.
ACTUALLY IT'S HIS YOUNGER BROTHER.
UNCLE AKIO IS HERE!?
社長室
WHAT!?

(SIGN)
PRESIDENT

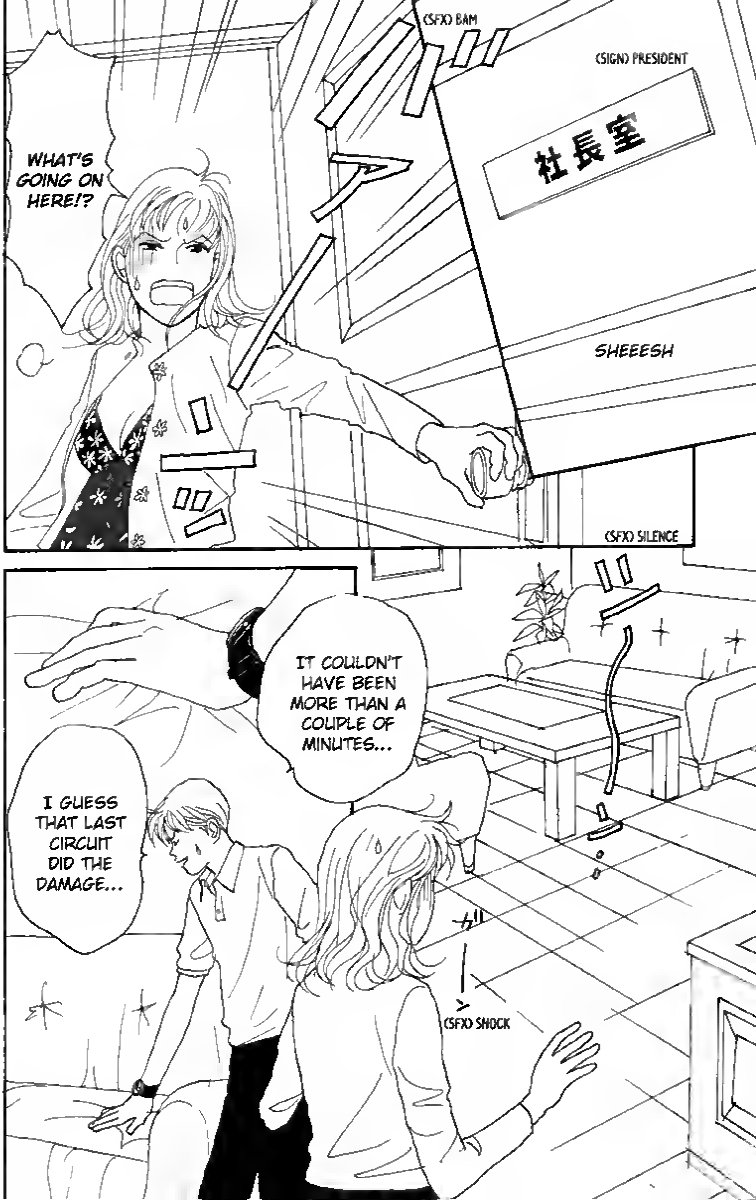
YOU'RE LEAVING THE GALLERY AND GOING TO FRANCE!?
UH-HUH
I'M SORRY FOR THE SHORT NOTICE...
A FRIEND OF MINE IS OPENING AN ART GALLERY IN PARIS AND WANTS ME TO HELP HIM.
HE'S ASKED ME REPEATEDLY SINCE LAST YEAR.

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT A LOT.
I THINK IT'S TIME FOR ME TO BE INDEPENDENT OF FATHER'S GALLERY AND TAKE MY OWN PATH...
Huh!?
I'M SORRY FOR DECIDING WITHOUT CONSULTING YOU.
HERE...
(SFX) FWISH
THIS MONTH'S SALES FOR THE GALLERY.
(SCRIBBLE) EHHH
WH-WHAT!? SO MUCH!
A HUGE SUCCESS
IS WHAT I WISH I COULD CALL IT.
(SFX) HA HA HA

(SFX) HA HA HA
GOING OUT OF BUSI-NESS ...!?
I FIGURED WE'D BETTER CLEAR OUT THE INVENTORY BEFORE SHUTTING IT DOWN, SO I'VE BEEN SELLING IT OFF REALLY CHEAP.
BUT IT'S MORE OF A "GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE".
BUT...ARE YOU OKAY WITH IT?
W- WELL...
UH-HUH
I MEAN, ISN'T THAT YOUR INTENTION? AFTER ALL
WITH GETTING RID OF THE GALLERY?
THAT'S TRUE...
AFTER I QUIT...
TO SELL IT?

UH-HUH
I'LL BE FINE.
IT WILL BE A RELIEF.
(SFX) HA HA HA
OR IF YOU WANT TO SHUT IT DOWN, SHUT IT DOWN.
BUT IF YOU WANT TO KEEP IT GOING, KEEP IT GOING.
Uh-huh.
A relief?
YOU'RE THE OWNER AFTER ALL.
DO WHATEVER YOU LIKE WITH IT.

NAGA-SAWA!
COME BACK HERE!
NAGA-SAWA!
HEY!
!!
WHY DO YOU KEEP GETTING IN MY WAY!?
SINCE I GOT HERE!?
NO... THAT'S NOT IT.
YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND THIS FLOOR, WHICH IS THE SECOND FLOOR.
BUT I'M GUESSING YOU'RE AIMING FOR THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE ON THE THIRD FLOOR.
I was just tryina to tell you.
(SFX) SHOCK


(SFX) BAM
(SIGN) PRESIDENT
社長室
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!?
SHEEESH
(SFX) SILENCE
IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE THAN A COUPLE OF MINUTES...
I GUESS THAT LAST CIRCUIT DID THE DAMAGE...
(SFX) SHOCK

I'M NOT TRYING TO BE MEAN, BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD GO HOME NOW.
SAY, NAGASAWA.
TODAY DOESN'T SEEM LIKE YOUR LUCKY DAY.
YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE THINKING STRAIGHT.
I THINK YOU'D BE BETTER OFF RESTING AT HOME TODAY.
BOTH YOUR FATHER AND YOUR UNCLE ARE VERY BUSY WITH WORK AT THE MOMENT.
THEY DON'T NEED A FEVERISH GIRL BOO-HOOING AROUND THEM..

NAGA-SAWA!?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT...
THIS PAINT-ING
AND THIS
FOR SUCH PRICES...

ALL THOSE PAINTINGS THAT WERE SO KIND TO ME IN THAT GALLERY SINCE I WAS LITTLE.
SOLD TO PEOPLE I HAVE NO IDEA WHO THEY ARE...
ALL WITHOUT ME KNOWING ABOUT IT.
うっ
うっ
うっ
うっ
(SFX) SOB SOB SOB SOB
I CAN'T BELIEVE I WON'T EVER BE ABLE TO LOOK AT THEM AGAIN.
(SFX) SOB...
IT'S NOTHING TO WEEP ABOUT.
BEING SOLD ON THE OPEN MARKET DOESN'T MEAN THEY'LL END UP AS MINCED MEAT.
THEY'RE HARDLY LIKE THE CALF IN "DONNA DONNA".

ANYWAY NAGASAWA,
DON'T YOU WANT TO SELL THE PAINTINGS IN THE GALLERY?
OF COURSE I DO
IT'S...
BUSI-NESS
IF WE DON'T SELL PAINTINGS WE GO UNDER..
hmph,
SO YOU FINALLY GET IT.
IN THAT CASE, DON'T KEEP CARPING ABOUT YOUR UNCLE'S WORK.
NO.
YOU SHOULD GO WITH HIM TO SELL ONE OR TWO YOURSELF.
I HATE THIS WORK.

UNLOAD IT!?
THAT'S RIGHT. FOR SURE.
THAT'S THE ONLY REASON UNCLE AKIO WOULD QUIT SUDDENLY LIKE THIS
EVEN IF IT WAS TO PROTECT THE GALLERY I DID,
Huh?
BUT TO SELL THEM OFF TO UNLOAD IT...
THERE'S NO REASON TO SELL THE PAINTINGS OFF LIKE IT'S A FAILED COMPANY!

EH!?
BOSS
B-...
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING HERE?
Stealing my best part-timer
KYO... KO...
(SFX) HYEE
I THOUGHT YOU HAD QUIT THE JOB AT THE GALLERY
AND WERE GOING TO BUCKLE DOWN AND STUDY QUIETLY AT HOME...

(SFX) HA HA HA
AKIO CAME TO TELL ME HE IS "QUITTING OUR GALLERY BECAUSE HE GOT A JOB AT A GALLERY IN FRANCE."
EHH!?
AKIO IS "SELLING THE PAINTINGS BECAUSE HE'S UNLOADING THE GALLERY"...?
I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE YOU COME UP WITH SUCH NONSENSE.
(SFX) FWISH
A GALLERY IN FRANCE!?
HAVE I EVER ONCE SAID I'M GOING TO SELL IT!?
NO WAY...
AND ANYWAY, I'M THE OWNER OF OUR GALLERY.

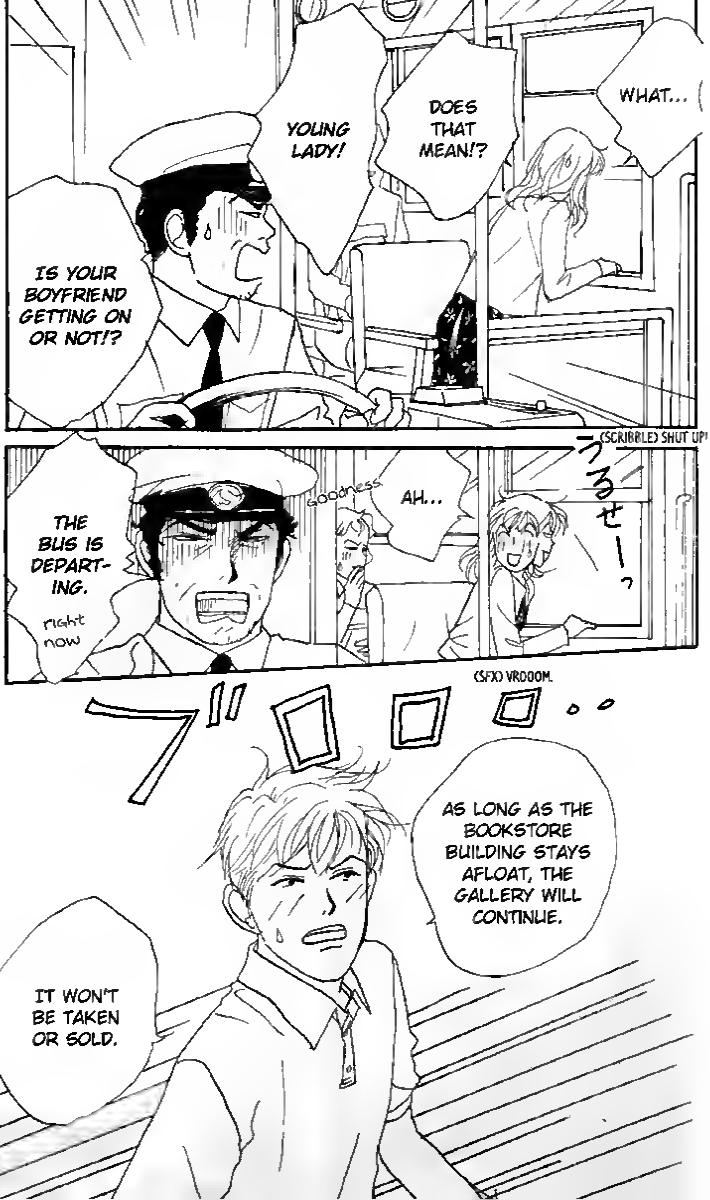
I DON'T THINK THE GALLERY IS AS IMPORTANT TO AKIO
AS YOU THINK IT IS.
SO PLEASE DON'T TREAT HIM LIKE A BAD GUY
I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU THOUGHT AKIO MIGHT HAVE SAID THAT TO ME.
...HE'S NOT THE BAD GUY.
(SFX) HA HA HA...
(SFX) EH?
えっ...
YOU ARE!
EVER SINCE YOU BUILT THIS BUILDING!

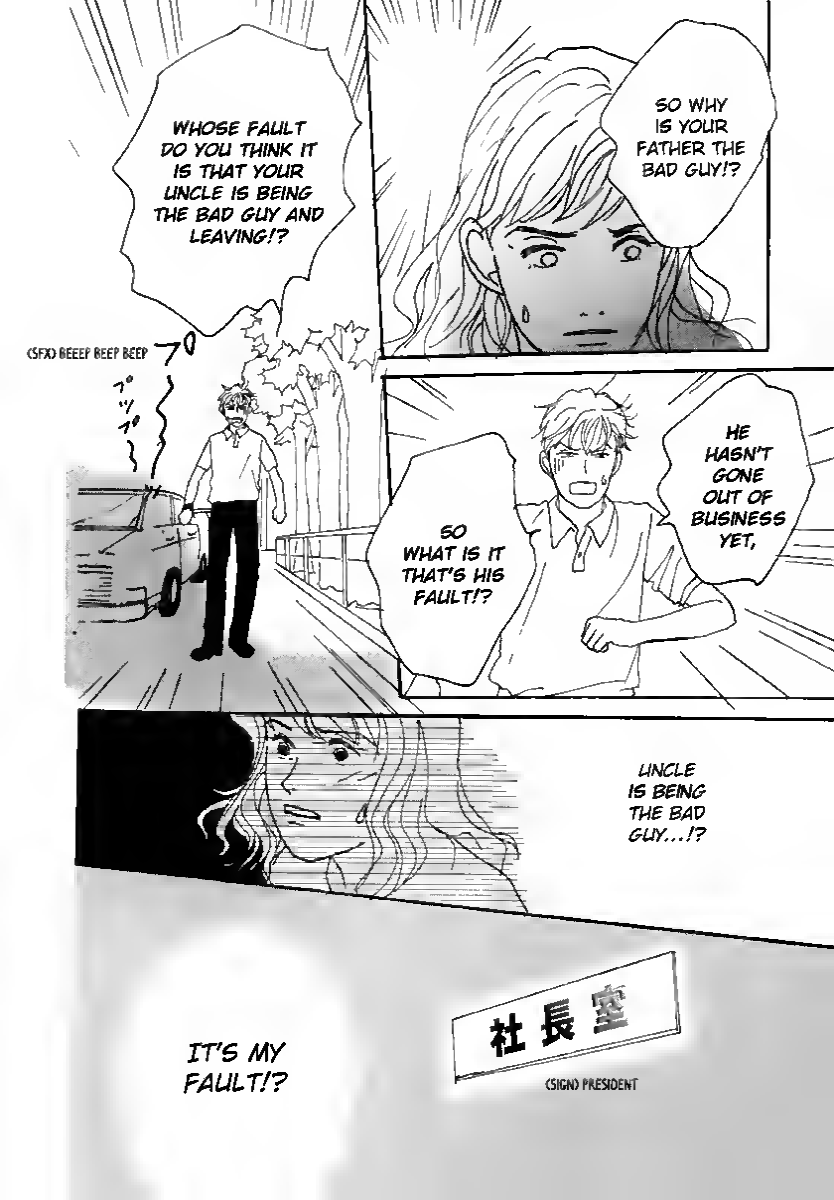
(SFX) GEH
I HEARD IT!
NAGA-SAWA!
MOM TOLD UNCLE AKIO
"ARE YOU SURE, AKIO?"
THAT YOUR BUSINESS IN THIS BUILDING ISN'T GOING WELL.
IF YOU SELL THE GALLERY AND ALL THE PAINTINGS, THAT WILL HELP YOU A LOT. RIGHT!?
"OF COURSE IT'S A BIG HELP TO US."
THAT'S WHY UNCLE AKIO IS QUITTING THE GALLERY!

YOU'RE THE BAD GUY!
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!
EVERY-THING!
NA...
(SFX) BAM
AH...
R-...

(SFX) SLAM
DAMN
REST-ROOM
REST-ROOM
NAGA-SAKI!
(SFX) BEEEP

YOUR UNCLE IS NOT QUITTING THE GALLERY TO SELL IT.
YOU FATHER HAS NO INTENTION OF SELLING IT!
(SFX) THUD
WHAT IS IT?
WHA-...
EH!?
THAT GALLERY IS BANK COLLATERAL.
FROM THE TIME YOUR FATHER BUILT THE BOOKSTORE BUILDING.
ANYWAY, THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN SELL IT.


WHAT...
DOES THAT MEAN!?
YOUNG LADY!
IS YOUR BOYFRIEND GETTING ON OR NOT!?
(SCRIBBLE) SHUT UP!
うるせー
AH...
Goodness
THE BUS IS DEPART-ING.
right now
(SFX) VROOOM.
AS LONG AS THE BOOKSTORE BUILDING STAYS AFLOAT, THE GALLERY WILL CONTINUE.
IT WON'T BE TAKEN OR SOLD.


SO WHY IS YOUR FATHER THE BAD GUY!?
WHOSE FAULT DO YOU THINK IT IS THAT YOUR UNCLE IS BEING THE BAD GUY AND LEAVING!?
(SFX) BEEEP BEEP BEEP
HE HASN'T GONE OUT OF BUSINESS YET,
SO WHAT IS IT THAT'S HIS FAULT!?
UNCLE IS BEING THE BAD GUY...!?
社長室
(SIGN) PRESIDENT
IT'S MY FAULT!?

"TURN OVER THE GALLERY IN GINZA, AND THE DEBT WILL BE FORGIVEN."
THEY'VE COME AGAIN AND AGAIN FROM THE BANK.
"THINGS WILL BE FINE FOR YOU THEN MR NAGASAWA."
THEY SAY.
BUT WHEN THEY LOANED THE MONEY, THEY SAID, "IF YOU FILL THE BUILDING WITH TENANTS, YOU'LL BE LIVING ON EASY STREET."
(SFX) HA HA HA
THERE'S NO WAY IT WOULD BE THAT EASY.

IF I HAD WANTED TO LIVE ON EASY STREET, I'D HAVE SOLD THE GALLERY IN THE FIRST PLACE...
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER TO SELL IT FROM THE START ANYWAY...
PAPA NAGA-SAWA IS TOO KIND-HEARTED ...
IS HE AFRAID THAT HIS DAUGHTER WILL HATE HIM?
MAYBE HE REALLY LACKS SELF-CONFIDENCE
Ah-ah
LIKE MY BROTHER ...
a personal check
(SFX) RUSTLING
KEH!
Hi, Katsu Yuki!

HOW LONG AM I GONNA LET MYSELF BE CONSUMED WITH DISGUST!?
BOSS!
DO YOU INTEND TO GO BANK-RUPT?
OR NOT?
YOU SAY, "INTEND"...
WELL
I DON'T WANT TO GO BANKRUPT, BUT...

YOU DON'T WANT TO!
Y-...
YES!?
IN THAT CASE, TAKE THIS PERSONAL CHECK TO THE BANK AT ONCE.
AND USE IT TO PAY THIS MONTH'S LOAN PAYMENT!
I CAN'T... DO THAT!
ANYWAY, WHY TO I HAVE TO TAKE ORDERS FROM A PART-TIMER LIKE YOU?
CAN YOU DO IT?
CAN YOU MAKE THE MONTHLY PAYMENT FOR SURE?

FOR SURE ...
SO YOU'RE SAYING YOU CAN!?
YOU CAN PAY THE MONTHLY PAYMENT FOR SURE?
IT ISN'T WHETHER YOU CAN PAY IT.
THE QUESTION IS WHETHER YOU WILL PAY IT, RIGHT!?
IF YOU ARE NOT PLANNING FOR SURE TO PAY THE MONTHLY PAYMENT ON A LOAN, YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A COMMON THIEF.
HUH ..
A COMMON THIEF?
SURELY THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO PAY BUT CAN'T!?
AND RIGHT NOW THAT'S ME.
IF THE BUBBLE HADN'T BURST, I'D BE ABLE TO PAY OFF THE LOAN FOR SURE.

YOU WILL PAY IT, ABSO-LUTELY!
IF YOU EVER LET YOURSELF OFF THE HOOK, IT'S OVER.
ONE YEN AT A TIME, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT
BOSS
FOR ME..

I CAN'T ALWAYS BE A HIGH SCHOOL RUNAWAY WHO FAILED TO GO STUDY ABROAD!
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO TRY.
WANTED
WILL YOU LET ME?
FINE!
YOU SAY, "FINE!" BUT EXACTLY WHAT DO YOU MEAN TO DO!?
IT'S MY DEBUT!

the 34th round ✖ おわり